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Friday Morning, August 25, 1916.

QUESTIONING HUGHES.

Charles E. Hughes has been utterly unconvincing thus far in his forensic efforts to prove to the country that a for our ill can be had solely from Republican misdeeds. He encountered from the first the difficulty of establishing in the minds of intelligent men and women that anything materially wrong afflicted these United States. Prosperity is too general. Escape from successive international and domestic crises has been consistently accomplished by President Wilson. His country today is better bulwarked than ever in history. It was a discouraging situation which Hughes faced when he set forth on his speech-making tour. He could do little more than scold, and few have patience with uncalculated scolding. It has been noted for the publicity bureau of the Democratic National Committee to call Mr. Hughes to account. The committee gives out the following, prepared and signed by one of the best-known American writers:

The Honorable Charles E. Hughes:—
The professional writers who sign this letter have no interest in parties but a very deep interest in the country. It is our hope, through this voluntary association, to assist in the promotion of honest, educational discussion in order that fundamental issues may not be lost in prejudice and ignorance.

Mr. Wilson's beliefs have been expressed in law and declared policies. He has made an open record by which he may be judged. Wise choice is not possible unless you yourself make equally specific statement of your views and convictions.

Without intent to offend, we feel justified in charging that in no single public utterance have you filed a bona fide bill of particulars, nor have you offered a single constructive suggestion.

Generalities are without value. Blanket criticism is useless. What we desire to know, what it is fair that the electorate should know, are the exact details of your agreement with President Wilson. What has he done for you that you would not have done or propose to do? Honor and patriotism demand that you put yourself upon record in such manner as to permit people to judge you as you are now able to judge President Wilson.

For example:
Would you have filed instant protest against the violation of Belgium and backed up that protest with the United States navy?

It is arrant nonsense to talk about action that I have prevented the Lusitania tragedy. The vague statement did not appear until shortly before the sinking. The occurrence was one of those things which civilization had made the world regard as incredible.

Would you have made disaster the subject of diplomatic negotiations or would you have broken relations with Germany at once?

Would you have urged upon Congress an embargo upon the shipment of munitions to the allies?

Would you urge universal compulsory military service?

You are frank in stating that Huerta's moral is of no concern to America. Does this mean that you would have recognized Huerta?

As matters stand today, would you be in favor of intervening in Mexico?

Does your attack upon the Wilson shipping bill mean that you are in favor of ship subsidies?

You speak enthusiastically of the rights of the miner. Does this imply that you endorse the Clayton rust law and the seamen's bill? Or will you urge repeal?

What are your specific complaints against the national reserve law?

As governor of New York, you opposed the income tax amendment. Does this antagonism persist? Do you or do you not believe in paying for preparedness a tax on incomes, inheritances and munitions?

We agree with you that it is a "critical period," by far the critical indeed for candidates to talk in terms of seeking rather than in the simple, earnest language of finite Americanism.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS BITTER.

In view of the revival of activity of German submarines and reports of the renewal of the agitation in Germany for the unlimited use of the submarine, regardless of the attitude of the United States and of the other neutral countries, interest attaches to the arrival in New York via Switzerland of copies of an anti-submarine and anti-Government leaflet that has been secretly circulated by thousands throughout the German Empire.

This pamphlet was put out by a minority group of the Social Democratic Party of Germany that has consistently opposed the war from the very beginning and which is labeled the "International Group."

The leaflet, which is entitled "Submarine Warfare, International Law and International Murder," and which was started in circulation some time ago when the German press and Parliament were clamoring for vengeance upon the British for the alleged murder of the members of a German submarine crew, known as the Baralong case, reads as follows:

"The German Government has incurred a sharp rebuff and has humbled itself before the United States. But the provocative agitation continues, and it is necessary that we clearly understand what may still happen."

"The submarine warfare was intended to force England to come whimpering and begging for mercy, and thus bring the war to an end with a glorious victory for German imperialism. Because the German people were hungry the 'holding out' politicians persuaded the nation that the people of England should be forced to be still hungrier."

"The crazy imperialistic agitators in the Government and in the ruling classes had stupidly provoked the world war, in spite of the fact that they must have known that it would cause the German people to run the risk of being starved out. To the crime of international murder they added that of stupidity, for they knew—they must have known—that nowadays a war against France and Russia might last for years, and that if at the same time the neutrality of England were not assured all exports to Germany would be cut off."

"And when it really came to that, they began to shout bloody murder and assert that was against international law; that it was a crime against international law to expose a nation of 70,000,000 persons to famine."

"To this we say: 'In the first place the German Government has forfeited every right of appeal to international law. If this is to be effective, then above all international treaties so solemnly entered upon must be binding. Such a treaty guarantees the neutrality of Belgium. Despite this, Germany attacked Belgium and thus gave British imperialism the excuse to incite the British people to war against Germany. In the second place, the blockade carried on by England, the cutting off of all exports to Germany, is not contrary to the law of nations. On the contrary, the halting of exports to an enemy country in order to make the struggle harder, or quite impossible, is a method of warfare that has always been recognized."

MOUTHING ABOUT BORDER RIGHTS.

In his Detroit speech, Candidate Hughes flamboyantly declared there is no border line for United States rights. Implying, of course, that such a border line had been recognized by Mr. Wilson. Very thing, very unpersuasive! There is no border line now. There never has been a border line, there never will be a border line for United States rights.

American rights have always been protected beyond the border line—to the very limit. They were protected in our little affair with Tripoli. They were protected in the gloomy days of 1812-15; they were protected during the Civil War, in every instance.

But it is one thing to protect rightly and effectively, quite another to mouth about border lines. It does not necessarily require shot and shell and bayonets, the shriek of the wounded, the groans of the dying, to give protection to Americans. Calm judgment and the righteousness of right itself may often accomplish without war a respect greater than even victory in battle could achieve.

The rights of this country, during the Wilson regime have been protected beyond border limits and in a way to make every citizen proud of his citizenship and of the executive head of his government. All such sincere and the rampant candidate is so freely admitting will never prove persuasive with the voters of this country.

DECOLLETE FOR MEN

At last males may wear the comfortable "sport shirt" with its short sleeves and soft, open collar, without embarrassment or fear. It's "good form." It is sanctioned by no less a personage than Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador at Washington. And since his benevolent male styles for the universe, and Sir Cecil's loyalty has never been questioned, we may accept it as conclusive that the king, were he in the ambassador's place, would do the same thing, and work in his office costless, sport-shirted and unashamed.

Thus man's age-old longing to bare his Adam's apple, and even his wishbone, to summer's zephyrs, may be satisfied. Collars, comfort and convenience come at last to a sex choked by tight collars and overheated by superfluous apparel.

"Why not dress for the climate?" asks Sir Cecil blandly. Why, indeed? Follow your heart's desire. Don a sport shirt with any costume you like, except possibly a dress suit. And if anybody objects, whisper him the remark that the British ambassador wears 'em.

From the Atlanta propaganda for establishing the government nitrate plant in Georgia we gather that Georgia contains a superior quality of nitrogen.

WHAT EDITORS SAY
OF RAILWAY ISSUE

Demand Peaceful Settlement of
Wage Controversy.

STRIKE MUST BE AVERTED.

Almost Unanimously Newspapers Indorse Proposals of Railway Managers That Wage Question Be Settled by Interstate Commerce Commission or by Arbitration Under the Newlands Law.

Chicago.—The proposed strike by all railway train service employees in order to secure a wage increase of \$100,000,000 a year is condemned by newspaper editors throughout the country.

They declare such a strike would be a public calamity and that it must be averted.

Almost unanimously the editors indorse the proposals made by the committee of railway managers to the leaders of the brotherhoods—that the wage question be settled by the interstate commerce commission or by arbitration under the Newlands law.

The following extracts from newspaper editorials fairly reflect public sentiment on this most important issue:

The interstate commerce commission should be empowered to prevent this threatened railroad strike. Write to your congressman about it.—Chicago Tribune.

The great public has more at stake than either the railway stockholders or the railway employees.—Davenport (Ia.) Times.

The interstate commerce commission represents the great public. It was created for the purpose of holding even the scales.—Rocky Mountain News, Denver.

The trainmen should take prudent thought. Arbitration is their wise policy.—Detroit Free Press.

The public will support any finding the interstate commerce commission may make.—Dallas (Tex.) News.

Public opinion ought to have reinforced the position of the railroads long before now.—Galveston News.

The regulation of wages presents no more difficulties than the regulation of rates.—Holyoke (Mass.) Transcript.

The interstate commerce commission would certainly be responsible if it permitted a strike to come.—Minneapolis Journal.

The train crew unions have no case which they are willing to try in a court of arbitration or in the great court of public opinion.—New York Commercial.

The controversy is not between the railroads and their employees, but between the public and the railway employees.—New York Globe.

The men now seem to show rather a consciousness of the weakness of their position than reliance upon its merits.—New York Times.

The interstate commerce commission cannot avoid regulating wages so long as it regulates rates.—New York Tribune.

The railroad brotherhoods are mistaken. There is something to arbitrate.—New York World.

The railway employees are plainly in the wrong and should cease their misdeeds before they make a worse blunder.—Oslo (Nor.) Northwestern.

Neither side could afford to take the position of demanding more than the interstate commerce commission would approve.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

The railroad employees are not suffering such intolerable wrongs that they cannot await the result of arbitration.—Portland Oregonian.

The greatness of the power for which the labor leaders are seeking is the very strongest argument why they should not have it.—Railway Age Gazette.

The public is as vitally interested in the situation as the railroads or the employees.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Either the railroads are wrong or their employees are. Any just cause will stand investigation.—Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger.

This is the time when every American who loves his country should set aside his own schemes of aggrandizement.—Kansas City Journal.

The United States government cannot permit any strike that would tie up all the railroads of the country.—Leslie's Weekly.

It is just as true that organized labor may oppress the public intolerably as that organized capital may do it.—Lowell (Mass.) Citizen.

Those who would suffer most from a tying up of the nation's traffic would get no vote on the question of a strike.—Lincoln (Nebr.) Star.

One thing is certain, the railroads, the railroad employees and the American people cannot afford such a strike.—Memphis Appeal.

We think the brotherhoods are making a mistake in refusing arbitration. Capital must get its living wage as well as labor.—Milwaukee Free Press.

Business can hold along under high freight rates. Death would follow a general railroad strike.—Baton Rouge (La.) Times.

The American people do not believe there is any difference between the railroads and the employees that cannot be adjusted peacefully.—Bloomington (Ill.) Telegraph.

The railroads have accepted the perfectly reasonable and natural suggestion that the wage question be settled by arbitration.—Boston Journal.

Why should a vote be taken on a strike which the public will never tolerate?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A REAL CRISIS

DENVER BUSINESS MEN
APPEAL TO CONGRESS.

They Want Interstate Commerce
Commission to Stop Rail-
road Strike.

Denver.—Alarmed by the prospective strike of railway train employees to secure higher wages, the members of the Denver Clearing House association unanimously passed the following resolution:

Whereas, At a recent meeting in New York between managers of the railroads and executives of the trainmen's brotherhoods, called for the discussion of wage schedules, at which conference interested parties were unable to agree; and
Whereas, Subsequently the brotherhood representatives refused to consider arbitration and are now taking a strike vote, which may end in a general strike, such as would paralyze the industry of the country;

Therefore, be it resolved, That by this resolution the Denver Clearing House association, regardless of the merits of the controversy as between the railroads and their employees, does hereby express its disapproval of a strike as a medium of adjustment, and we hereby call on our senators and congressmen to interest themselves in the passing by congress of such a measure as will have the effect of instructing and empowering the interstate commerce commission to take cognizance of these conditions and effect a fair and equitable adjustment as between the railroads and their employees, thereby preventing a nation wide railroad strike.

Says Brotherhoods Err.
Milwaukee, Wis.—The Free Press says editorially:

We think the brotherhoods are making a mistake in refusing arbitration. If they are fairly entitled to what they ask for, impartial arbitrators will award it to them, and the public, which finally foots all transportation bills, will draw its belt a bit tighter, pay the price either in higher rates or diminished service, or both, and there will be no interruption of the country's commerce.

But if American business shall be thrown out of gear by a general stoppage of railroad service because the brotherhoods have refused to arbitrate, public sympathy will undoubtedly be with the railroad owners and managers. And without the support of public opinion the brotherhoods could not win a strike. ***

Capital must get its living wage as well as labor.

A general strike would effect every individual in the country. It must not occur.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

A strike such as is threatened would be a calamity to all the people of the United States.—Brooklyn Eagle.

ROBERT FERGUS HONORED.
PITTSBURGH, Aug. 24.—The biennial convention of the Loyal Order of the Moose closed here tonight with the election of officers. George H. Mark, of Chicago, was elected supreme grand master. Robert Fergus, of Bisbee, Arizona, was elected supreme grand inside tyler.

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